

15.4.2020

PRESS STATEMENT

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IMPLEMENT CLOUD SEEDING FOR PENANG AND KEDAH NOW

- **Effective capacities of 6 key dams in Penang and Kedah are abnormally low.**
- **Penang and Kedah need sufficient water to fight COVID-19.**

PENANG, Wednesday, 15.4.2020: The Penang State Government has sent an urgent request to the Meteorological Department to conduct cloud seeding in order to induce more rainfall in Penang and Kedah.

The reason for this request is that the effective capacities of 6 key dams in Penang and Kedah are low, due to abnormally dry weather since the second half of 2019.

The effective capacities of these dams are as follows:

No.	Dam	State	Effective Capacity % (14.4.2020)
1.	Air Itam	Penang	33.3
2.	Teluk Bahang	Penang	20.9
3.	Mengkuang	Penang	68.3
4.	Muda	Kedah	4.4
5.	Beris	Kedah	39.6
6.	Pedu	Kedah	33.4

Moreover, the Sungai Muda river level has dropped to 1.29m on 14.4.2020, which is below the critical level of 1.5m. The normal level of the Sungai Muda is above 2.0m.

The Muda Dam and Beris Dam in Kedah were built to release water into Sungai Muda, the primary raw water resource for Penang and Southern Kedah, during dry seasons.

According to the Meteorological Department, we are presently in the inter-monsoon season when rain may be expected.

However, Penang is requesting for cloud-seeding now to mitigate the risks of low rainfall. With the presence of rain clouds now, it makes good sense to implement cloud seeding to induce as much rainfall as possible because the potential for success is high.

We need more rainfall now in the water catchment areas of the 6 key dams in Penang and Kedah, as well as Sungai Muda, because Penang and Kedah must have sufficient water supply to fight COVID-19.

As it stands, a total of 3.95 million people residing in Penang and Kedah need continuous good water supply daily to practise good personal hygiene.

We do not know how long we have to fight COVID-19, even after the Movement Control Order (MCO) is lifted.

We hope the Meteorological Department will act promptly on our request in the interests of public health and safety.

Isolated incidences of intermittent water issues in specific areas

PBAPP has received a number of intermittent “low water pressure” or “no water supply” reports from consumers in the past few days.

These complaints are related to water supply issues faced by a few households in Pokok Ceri, Hye Keat Estate (Air Itam), Flat 420 Taman Bukit Bendera, Kampung Paya Terubong, Kampung Gertak Sanggul and Mount Erskine (behind Lorong Air Terjun).

The affected areas are generally classified as “higher ground” or “end-of-pipeline” areas. As and when water consumption is too high, these areas will experience low water pressure or no water supply.

PBAPP has responded by despatching water tankers to the affected areas.

PBAPP’s normal response would be to boost water production at the Air Itam Water Treatment Plant and/or the Batu Ferringhi Water Treatment Plant to address such issues.

However, in this present abnormal dry season scenario, PBAPP cannot aggressively draw down the low reserves of the Air Itam Dam and the

Teluk Bahang Dam to supply more raw water to these water treatment plants.

In this context, PBAPP apologises to all consumers who are presently experiencing intermittent “low water pressure” or “no water supply” issues in Penang.

PBAPP will continue to do its best to alleviate the situation. However, we seek water consumers’ patience and understanding to note that the primary cause is high water demand during peak hours, due to abnormal circumstances.

Nevertheless, PBAPP must continue to prioritise its primary objective of “no water rationing at all costs” until dam capacities in Penang are sufficiently replenished by rainfall.

As such, we are requesting for the Meteorological Department to conduct cloud seeding operations now.

Thank You.

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